From: Chris Lawrence
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:05pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing in opposition to the proposed settlement of the U.S. case against Microsoft Corporation. In particular, I request that the following, or something substantially similar, be made a condition of any settlement with Microsoft:

Microsoft shall be required to disclose all application programming interfaces (APIs) that are used by any software sold or given away by Microsoft that is not included with Windows 98, Windows 2000 Professional, Windows XP Home, Windows XP Professional, Windows CE, Windows XP Tablet PC Edition, or any subsequent Microsoft operating system implementing portions of the Win32 API, as well as any Microsoft Middleware component that is offered for free download by Microsoft, including Internet Explorer ("add-on code"). Microsoft shall further be required to provide public documentation of these application programming interfaces, available to software developers at a reasonable cost, at a similar level of detail to Microsoft's existing documentation of public APIs, not to exceed the per-page cost of said documentation. Microsoft shall further be obligated to fully disclose the effects of API calls made by its add-on code, including the side-effects of specifying particular arguments to these API calls.

The technical committee or any third party shall have the authority to inspect Microsoft's add-on code, in binary form, and documentation to verify compliance with this provision.

Nothing in this section shall compel Microsoft to provide any such add-on code for free for use with non-Microsoft operating systems; however, no add-on code sold for any monetary cost (including "Microsoft Office") shall require the use of a Microsoft operating system for execution of said code. Further, nothing in this section shall limit the technical committee's rights to examine source code as set forth in the agreement.

I also fully support the position of Dan Kegel, et al, in their forthcoming letter regarding the settlement.

Christopher N. Lawrence Ph.D. Candidate and System Administrator 2000 Libertarian candidate for U.S. Congress, 1st District of Mississippi Oxford, Mississippi

Chris Lawrence <chris@lordsutch.com> - http://www.lordsutch.com/chris/